

ESD 12 Henderson County



Minutes

June 23, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Cody Seal at 6:32 pm at the Henderson County Courthouse Annex. Members present were Commissioners Bersano, Bertholf and Delaney. A quorum was established. Commissioner Lyons came in later. Chief York was joined by Fireman Brandon Smith. County Commissioner Chuck McHam was also in the audience.

The minutes from the May meeting were approved as submitted.

The treasurer's report will be included on the website. A \$687,207.65 balance was reported as of June 2. Brandon Delaney requested that all future reports include verification of interest earned. Further discussion was moved to item VIII in order to take a phone call from ESD 12 attorney Ken Campbell.

Attorney Ken Campbell presented steps needed before taking action on setting a date for a proposed Sales Tax not to exceed 2% that would apply only to ESD 12 residents living outside the city limits of Chandler. The additional revenue would provide a buffer if revenue collected by the ad valorem decreases in the future. Mr. Campbell recommended an "educate not advocate" campaign to avoid any conflict of interest. He suggested that engaging a PR company would be helpful to ensure positive results. He also outlined pros/cons of putting this on the November ballot. It would be less expensive but would also draw more voters than a May election. To be on the November ballot a decision needs to be made prior to August 17. Mr. Campbell's office will do the necessary paperwork. Commissioner Bertholf moved to table action until the July meeting and Commissioner Bersano seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Campbell recommended that ESD 12 propose a not to exceed .10/100 tax to avoid the uncertainties for evaluations in the past years. The "real" tax will be determined by final evaluations and presented to the public in August. Brandon Delaney made the motion to propose a not to exceed .10/100 tax for 2026-27. Nancy Bertholf seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Bersano presented the final draft of the 2026-27 budget. County Commissioner McHam updated the group about a county concern on the expanding cost of the radio service for all emergency services including law enforcement, EMS and VFD. The commissioners were to vote on June 24 to start billing entities for cost at \$20 per radio. This would be \$400 monthly for ESD 12. This was added to the budget as well as a possible increase in attorney fees for the Sales Tax Election in November or May of the budget year. Commissioner Delaney moved to accept the amended budget. Commissioner Bertholf seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Chief York reported two major incidents in the last month: wreck at Rockhill involving two fatalities and a hay barn fire at the dairy on FM 3079. Brandon Smith reported that the new Tender being built in South Dakota is almost ready.

The meeting was adjourned by President Cody Seal at 8:10 pm.